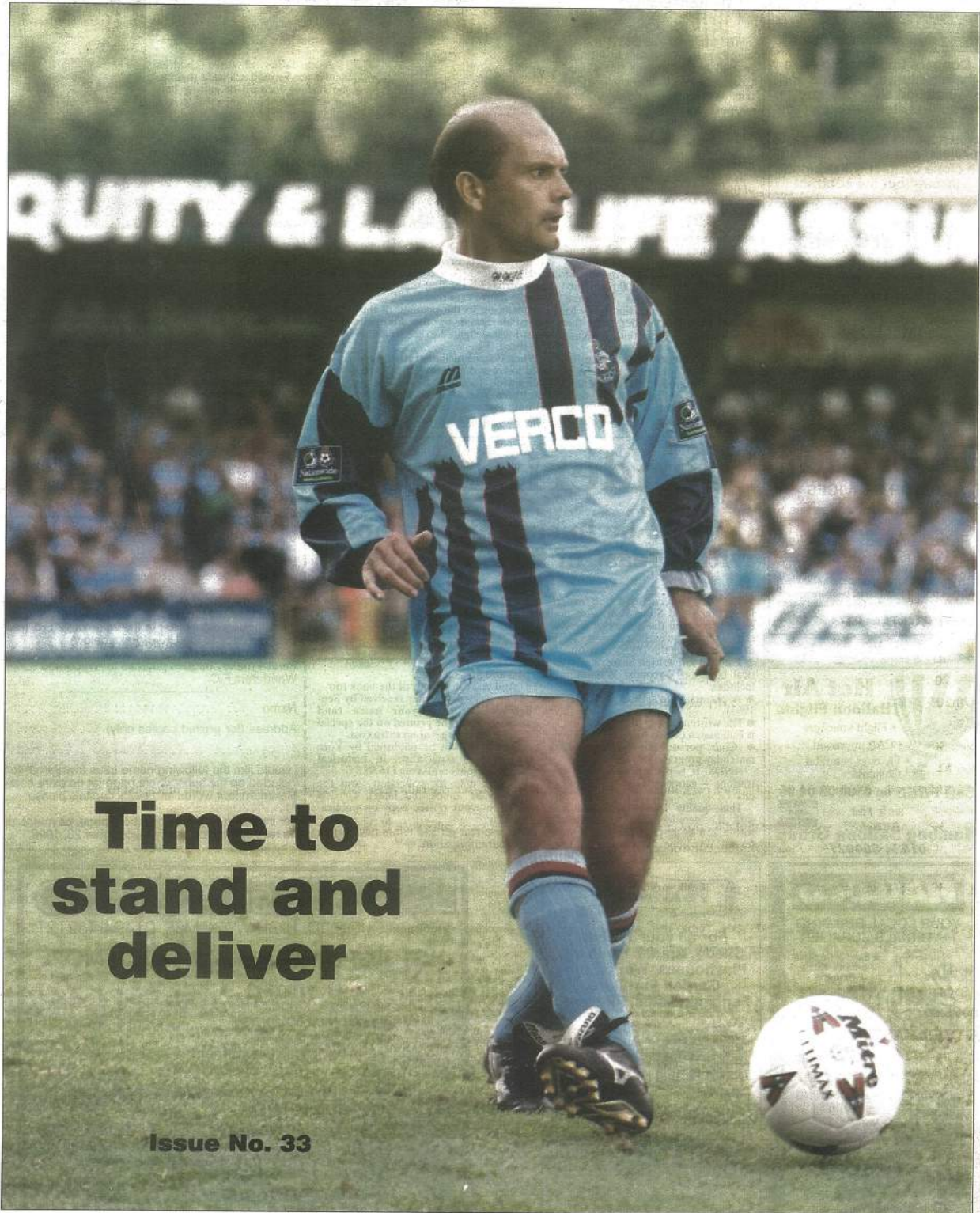




# *The* **BLUES NEWS**

*The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club*



**Time to  
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deliver**

**Issue No. 33**



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## 2

## THE BLUES NEWS

# It's a stadium to be proud about

THE atmosphere on Tuesday night against Nottingham Forest in the 2nd round of the Coca-Cola Cup was absolutely electric. Wycombe Wanderers' fans support was sensational. They really got behind the side, and were thoroughly entertained by a give-all gutsy performance from the lads.

It was so nice to see the upper tier of the ServisPak Stand nearly full. It was the fullest the new 5,000 seater stand has been since it was first used for the Reading match. All 20 executive boxes of ten were full Tuesday night, adding to the atmosphere and sense of occasion. This was further enhanced by chants of "what a load of rubbish" from the 800-plus Nottingham fans who saw Wycombe Wanderers force extra time, only to go out to a late header from the transfer listed (yes that haircut) Jason Lee.

With the Woodlands Executive Club virtually full (upper tier season ticket holders only), the new ServisPak Stand is operational. The only areas yet to be completed are the St John Ambulance First Aid Room



COMMERCIAL  
BREAK  
By Mark  
Austin

supported by Monsanto plc and the executive box reception area. The club has sold ten of the 20 executive boxes of ten on a four-year lease basis. The two half-way line boxes have been retained at the wise instructions of our chairman Ivor Beeks, for day lets.

Boxes one to eight are also available for day lets or annual lease or four-year lease. Any company paying up-front for the first three years, gets the fourth year rent free!

Moving on to the opening of the ServisPak Stand by the Football Trust I was delighted to see so many kids there.

When dozens of them rushed forward to try and grab one of the free Nationwide footballs I was giving out, there was a bit of a bundle. Without the metal safety fences, the club will have to re-think how it

gives out free gifts, for safety reasons.

As a father of three children under ten I would not want them to be rushing forward or getting hurt by others rushing forward to not miss out on the free goodies.

Back to the ServisPak Stand. If you have not tried the view from the upper tier, then I suggest you do so at the earliest opportunity.

You will find it hard not to come again, especially as the large concourse has such excellent toilets, tea-bars, Ladbrokes, programme stalls and a licensed drinking area. The new kitchens in the executive level are top-drawer, serving the 20 executive boxes and the new Woodlands Club, which is now available on a non-match day as a superb function room, with a fantastic view of the pitch, lovingly maintained by our Wilkinson Sword Division II Groundsman of the Year, Jim Gardner.

All in all, Adams Park is a first division stadium and excellent conference and banqueting facility.

Both fans and everybody in South Bucks can be extremely proud, as it is unrivalled.

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Pictures for this edition of The Blues News were supplied by Wycombe Wanderers and the Bucks Free Press.

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press. Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, The Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe. Telephone (01494) 472100. Fax (01494) 527633.

# Wandering down the years

## Offer to be in club history book with a feast of facts for fans

WRITTEN by recognised club 'experts' Dave Finch and Steve Peart, this book records in detail the history of the club, starting from the earliest days in 1887 up to and including the 1995/96 season.

The first full written history and statistical book on Wycombe Wanderers, it includes:

- A players Who's Who section (from 1963)
- The written history of the club
- Full match details from 1887 to 1996
- Club personalities, Loakes Park, matchday programmes, etc.

AND... It is packed with many illustrations - action photos, team groups, etc.

This quality hardback is crammed with the detailed history of the club within 256 large pages, and is a 'must' for all Wycombe fans; young and old,

past and present alike.  
And you can be part of the book too!  
For every paid order received by September 28, 1996; your name (and town/area) will be printed on the special 'Subscribers Page' at no extra cost.

The book will be published by Yore Publications (specialists in historical football books) and costs £16.95.

(Exact date for collection from the club to be announced later). Or add £3.70 for your posted copy on publication day.

Please tear off and retain this portion for your information.

## ORDER FORM

Please reserve for me a copy of THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF WYCOMBE WANDERERS FC, for which I enclose: (\* delete as necessary).

- \* A cheque/postal order to the value of £16.95 (I will collect from the club) or
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Please make cheques payable to: Wycombe Wanderers F.C.

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All children under eight must be with an adult. Over 16s pay £8 to sit or £7 to stand, unless a student, OAP or disabled, who pay £5 to sit and £4.50 to stand in concessionary areas.

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# THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF WYCOMBE WANDERERS F.C. FROM 1887 TO 1996 Available from 26th October 1996

Written by recognised Club "experts" Dave Finch & Steve Peart, this book records in detail the History of the Club, starting from the earliest days in 1887 up to and including the 1995/1996 season. The first full written history and statistical book on Wycombe Wanderers.

## INCLUDES:

- \* A players Who's Who section (from 1963)
- \* The written history of the club
- \* Full match details from 1887 to 1996
- \* Club personalities, Loakes Park, Matchday Programmes etc.

AND... Packed with many illustrations - action photos, team groups etc.

This quality hardback is crammed with the detailed history of the Club within 256 large pages, and is a "must" for all Wycombe fans; young and old, past and present alike, and you can be part of the book too!

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## THE BLUES NEWS



Glory days when fans had hopes soaring with celebration balloons

# Have faith - and come back to us

LETTER TO A REAL SUPPORTER  
By Graham Peart, Financial Director

I WAS privileged recently to be present at a cookery demonstration which was given by a star performer called Ian Ironside.

This man, nearing retirement age, had such enthusiasm for his job that he held his audience totally captivated by his skills, knowledge and stories. (He is the Chief Pastry Chef at Gleneagles in Perth with 15 years service at the Savoy and ten years with the Roux Bros).

He was talking about changing tastes literally and attitudes in his customers. He made a statement which applies to each and every business in the world: "At the end of the day your customers dictate what you can sell."

These are encouraging or chilling words depending whether you choose to describe a glass as half empty or half full.

At the time of me writing this letter to you we have played two home games, one before around 4,600, our average for last season and one before only 3,700. Our average last season was about 1,200 down on the season before. Say about 20 per cent or one in five.

The problem was that last season we were average. We finished 12th out of 24 - bang in the middle. We won, lost and drew about the same number of games. We scored and conceded about the same number of goals.

Our average home attendance was, well, average in our division. The play particularly

at home was often average and the players deserved the average vocal encouragement from the average size of crowd.

I cannot escape the facts. It was an ordinary sort of average season. But considering where we had come from in the last ten seasons, four divisions lower in the Vauxhall Opel Premier Division, the performance was remarkable. Surely it is better to be average against Burnley, Notts County and Swindon than excellent against Crawley Town, Carlisle and Harrow Borough?

I have seen comments recently referring to our "disastrous" last season. If statistical average equals "disastrous" how do you describe the performances of poor Brighton, Swansea and Hull who were relegated? I like to keep my glass half full.

Returning to Ian Ironside, this wise old Chef, he is correct. At the end of the day our fans will decide. The stadium has been developed into something very special. Even Yeovil supporters would be envious now. They used to be our big opposition 11 seasons ago, as you will remember. Our team has been improved and the style of play this season is very entertaining.

The matchday presentation by Alan Hutchinson is excellent. What about the band?

Brilliant!

The PA system now works properly for the first time. Even the last two toilet blocks have been refurbished. We even have beer on the concourse in the new stand.

What more can you wish for? In the immortal words of Danny Baker: "I do not care about the toilets, the tea bars or the turnstiles, all I want is a defence which can clear a corner." He was of course referring to his beloved Millwall some five years ago and who visit us for a League match in December. The irony of his words is that his team have the best stadium in Division Two (and better than some Premier) were top of Division One in November last season, couldn't clear a corner after that and now play us in Division Two.

Our playing problem is not so much as clearing a corner, but more of scoring from one. Our problem as a business is that if we do not supply excellence to our fans (to some, excellence is expected as normal) then a goodly number decide to spend their money in Payless or B&Q. Ugh! Frustration!

Chef Ironside came out with another brilliant comment: "If you tell the truth to your customers you can get away with murder". He really understands his customers. If you have contact with your regular customers during

your daily task, try it - it really works.

So, dear supporter, I am being honest with you. If we cannot persuade the lost 1,200 supporters to return to home matches, the loss of vital revenue will make it very difficult for us to make progress in the League. I am hoping that an occasional lack of excellence in our product on the field will not prevent you from coming to Adams Park this season. Am I now getting away with murder?

I cannot resist telling you this short and true story. The four of us only a few weeks ago went into the professional shop in Dunblane, Scotland, (how could such a lovely place experience such tragedy?).

With me was my son, son-in-law to be, I hope, and a person who probably wishes to be nameless but the clue is that he has masterminded the club's progress in recent years. We paid our green fees, bought lots of balls in readiness for Scottish conditions and got our scorecards.

Nameless said to this dour old Scot: "Do you have a map of the course?" The Scot without a pause or change in expression said "No sir, in Scotland we make it easy, we number the holes 1-18 and you play them in order 1-2-3-4 etc".

Nameless was speechless. Laugh - I couldn't hit a ball straight for another hour.

If you are honest with your customers you can get away with murder.

*'If we cannot persuade the lost 1,200 supporters to return to home matches, the loss of vital revenue will make it very difficult for us to make progress in the League'*



## THE BLUES NEWS

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### Player profile – Graham Hall

**FULL NAME:** Graham Andrew Hall  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** July 9, 1978  
**HEIGHT:** 6ft  
**WEIGHT:** 12st  
**HOME:** Tring (Herts)  
**CAR:** Fiat Punto  
**MARRIED:** No  
**CHILDREN:** No  
**DAD'S JOB:** Cancer research scientist  
**BROTHERS & SISTERS:** One sister, Alison  
**FAMILY PETS:** No  
**NICKNAME AT CLUB:** Beardo

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER?**  
 Neil Smillie.

**WHAT JOB WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU HADN'T MADE IT AS A FOOTBALLER?**  
 I would have gone to university.

**AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT?**  
 Being part of the school tennis team, which reached the last 16 of England.

San Siro

**WHAT OTHER SPORTS AND HOBBIES DO YOU ENJOY?**  
 Tennis, golf and rugby.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME?**  
 No.

**AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTSMAN?**  
 Linford Christie

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION?**  
 My car.

**DO YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS?**  
 No.

**IS THERE A SPORTING DREAM YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACHIEVED IN ANOTHER SPORT?**  
 To win the Olympic 100 metres.

**WHAT REALLY ANNOYS YOU IN FOOTBALL?**  
 People cheating other players.

**WHAT ARE YOU PET HATES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL?**  
 Smoking.

#### FAVOURITES

**TV PROGRAMME:** Men Behaving Badly  
**POP STAR/GROUP:** Oasis

**FOOD:** Pizza

**DRINK:** Orange juice

**FILM:** The Life of Brian

**FILM STARS:** Will Smith

**HOLIDAY RESORT:** Los Angeles

**TV STARS:** David Jason

**COMEDIAN:** Frank Skinner & David

**Baddeley**

**CITY:** Las Vegas

**SOAP:** EastEnders

**SOAP CHARACTERS:** Phil & Grant

**Mitchell**

**COMPILED BY STEVE HAYES**



**WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT YOU HAVE SEEN ON A FOOTBALL PITCH?**  
 Seeing somebody I knew streak when England played Aylesbury.

**WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT IN FOOTBALL?**  
 Scoring an own goal in a school cup final.

**WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A BOY?**  
 Everton

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?**

#### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD?**  
 To become a professional footballer.

**WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION NOW?**  
 To be as successful as possible within football.

**WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO?**  
 Gary Lineker

**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE?**  
 Being at Wembley when England beat Holland in Euro '96.

**WHAT IS YOUR SADDEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL?**  
 Being rejected by West Ham as a schoolboy.

**WHICH PRESENT-DAY FOOTBALLER DO YOU ADMIRE MOST?**  
 Eric Cantona.

**WHO IS THE GREATEST PLAYER THERE HAS EVER BEEN?**  
 Pele.

**WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER?**  
 My parents.

**WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED?**  
 Simon Garner.

**WHICH MANAGER HAS BEEN THE**

### Player profile – Brian Parkin

**FULL NAME:** Brian Parkin  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** October 12, 1965  
**HEIGHT:** 6ft 3in  
**WEIGHT:** 14st 3lb  
**HOME:** Bath  
**CAR:** XR2  
**MARRIED:** Single  
**CHILDREN:** None  
**DAD'S JOB:** Family tyre business  
**BROTHERS & SISTERS:** Two brothers, Roy & Kevin, one sister, Linda  
**FAMILY PETS:** Golden Labrador called Charlie  
**NICKNAME AT CLUB:** Parks

**WHO IS THE GREATEST PLAYER THERE HAS EVER BEEN?**  
 Tony the Tiger.

**WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER?**  
 Colin Darcy – ex-Everton keeper

**WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED?**  
 They are all tough.

**WHICH MANAGER HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER?**  
 Gerry Francis

**WHAT JOB WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU HADN'T MADE IT AS A FOOTBALLER?**  
 Draughtsman

**AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT?**  
 A palfry 68 break at snooker.

**WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT YOU HAVE SEEN ON A FOOTBALL PITCH?**  
 Steve Bull and Andy Mutch played a one-two around our static centre-half, Geoff Twentyman. His contact lens had come out and he couldn't see a thing.

**WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT IN FOOTBALL?**  
 The linesman flagged offside, so I passed to the forward for the free-kick. He fortunately gave it to our defender but the referee had waved play-on.

**WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A BOY?**  
 Liverpool.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?**  
 Anfield/Wembley.

**WHAT OTHER SPORTS AND HOBBIES DO YOU ENJOY?**  
 Golf and snooker.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME?**  
 Garlic – keeps everybody away!

**AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTSMAN?**  
 Nick Faldo – terrific under pressure

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION?**  
 2nd division championship medal

**DO YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS?**  
 No, and I can't sing either – but as my teammates will tell you I am a great moaner!

**IS THERE A SPORTING DREAM YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACHIEVED IN ANOTHER SPORT?**  
 To win the US Masters Golf Tournament

**WHAT REALLY ANNOYS YOU IN FOOTBALL?**  
 Referees and linesmen

**WHAT ARE YOU PET HATES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL?**  
 Little people with umbrellas

#### FAVOURITES

**TV PROGRAMME:** Friends

**POP STAR/GROUP:** Varied music tastes

**FOOD:** Fish

**DRINK:** Teal

**FILM:** Pulp Fiction

**FILM STARS:** Sean Connery, Sharron

**Stone**

**HOLIDAY RESORT:** Greek Islands

**TV STARS:** Harry Enfield

**COMEDIAN:** Roy Chubby Brown

**CITY:** Chester

**SOAP:** Home & Away

**SOAP CHARACTERS:** Angel (Home & Away)

**COMPILED BY STEVE HAYES**

#### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**WHO DO YOU SHARE A ROOM WITH ON AWAY TRIPS?**  
 At Shrewsbury it was David McCallum (the invisible man!)

**DOES HE HAVE ANY ANNOYING HABITS?**  
 When you want to speak to him you can never find him!

**WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD?**  
 To play for Liverpool and England.

**WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION NOW?**  
 To play until I am 40.

**WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO?**  
 Ray Clemence.

**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE?**  
 I once pulled a darling on a night out.

**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN LIFE?**  
 She bombed me out!

**WHAT IS YOUR SADDEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL?**  
 I lost two pals from my local at the Hillsborough disaster.

## The Blues SUPER CASHLINE weekly draw

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## THE BLUES NEWS

## We're striving to improve



THERE was a good turnout for the recent forum at Adams Park. An honest and open debate took place where supporters had their chance to put views directly to some players, the manager and chairman.

We are aware the the season has not got off to a good start. This was evident by the amount of criticism and shows that people really care about the club. However, most was aimed at the boss.

It is worth mentioning that he could easily decide not to attend any of these events, but instead he wants to hear what supporters have to say and, where possible, answer questions for which I believe he deserves some credit.

Nobody in any job enjoys being criticised but, as I have stated in this column before, the 11 players chosen should shoulder a large portion of the responsibility for our poor start. If we do not carry out instructions by the manager he can hardly be blamed.

As a team we start each game without an advantage. We cannot expect to control the whole game against any opposition but when we are in the driving seat pressurising

**Terry Evans, blighted by injuries in the past but now much fitter and hoping for success**

#### CAPTAIN'S LOG By Terry Evans



we must punish them and not let them off the hook – something which has happened too often this season already.

I do, however, feel that we have produced some battling performances and most games could have gone either way. Burnley was probably the best example. We took an early lead, conceded two first-half goals before continually pressurising them in the second half yet went home with nothing.

#### Chances

On the other hand, at home to Reading we could have gone in at half-time two down but we rode our luck, had a few good breaks, took our chances and went into the next round.

● The supporters have been first class this season. The noise from the new stand certainly makes a difference, especially in the Reading game which helped to produce a true Cup atmosphere.

Fans sticking behind us really does make all the difference. I am sure we are capable of putting a

string of good performances together which is the least you deserve.

It was a great experience to play in the same team as Ray Wilkins. I know it was only one game and a defeat at that but his influence together with the discussions we had taught me a few things.

As a player you are never too old to learn, especially from a player who has achieved so much from the game.

It is only a few weeks since Keith Ryan underwent surgery on his damaged knee yet already he is up and about and looking good. When a team like Wycombe has a small squad a serious injury to an influential player makes a big difference, though the lads who have come in have done well. Keith is still a big loss to the club.

As stated previously, football is all about highs and lows. A personal high was my pre-season training which was very good.

It is the first time in three seasons that I have been able to work hard to prepare properly for the big kick-off.

In the past there have been serious or nagging injuries preventing me from putting in maximum effort. I can honestly say that I have never felt fitter but in truth the team performance is what really counts.

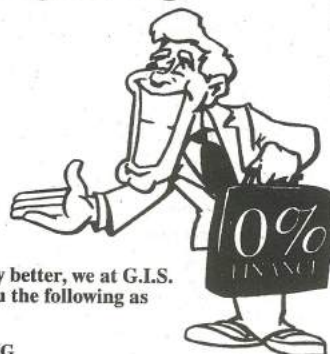
Looking up at the rest of the teams in our division from close to the bottom is a big low and not a position that I enjoy.

The quicker we can start to move up the table the better for all of us.

# GIS WINDOWS

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BS 5713

British & European Standard for Quality Systems.

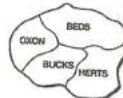
Window Performance Standard, including Materials, Construction, Security, Safety and Weather Proofing.

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